

years of service. Commander Fuqua is a native of my district, from Nashville, Tennessee.

During his career, Commander Fuqua held some of the most demanding jobs in the United States Navy and fulfilled these duties superbly. He has served as the chief engineer on a nuclear submarine, an extraordinarily challenging job that requires unstinting, 24-hour attention. He has also served as the Executive Officer on many missions, including one around-the-world deployment aboard the USS Batfish in 1997.

In honor of his distinguished service, Commander Fuqua has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three gold stars, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star. Long-time friend and fellow naval officer Scott Potter said of Commander Fuqua, "If you had to name a prototype naval officer, Steve would be it."

Commander Fuqua holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Tennessee Technological University and a Masters in Mechanical Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. After receiving his commission from Officer Candidate School in 1984, he entered the elite Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program and completed the course of instruction at the Naval Nuclear Power School in Orlando, Florida and Nuclear Prototype Training at the Prototype in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He also completed the Submarine Officer Advanced Course at the Naval Submarine Base in New London, Connecticut.

Commander Fuqua's initial sea tour assignment was aboard the USS Billfish (SSN 676) from 1986 to 1989, where he served as Main Propulsion Assistant and Combat Systems Officer. In 1992, Commander Fuqua reported aboard the USS Key West (SSN 772) as Engineer Officer. During this tour, the ship completed a Mediterranean deployment, a Southern deployment and a Selected Restricted Availability (SRA). From 1995 to 1997, he was assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) working for C4I Integration Support Activity (CISA), a defense support activity of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command & Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence.

In 1997, following completion of the Prospective Executive Officer course in New London, Connecticut, he reported for duty as Executive Officer of the USS Batfish (SSN 681). Following completion of a six-month around-the-world deployment, the USS Batfish changed homeports from New London, Connecticut to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Commander Fuqua detached from the USS Batfish in 1999 following the ship's inactivation and reported for duty to the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations (N77), where he served as Submarine Communications Requirements Officer from 1999 until 2002. In May 2003, Commander Fuqua reported to Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) where he is assigned to the Undersea Weapons Program Office of the International Programs Division.

He now lives in Alexandria, Virginia with his wife Kathi, their three sons, Steven, 14, Matthew, 12, and Tyler, 9, and their daughter, Megan, who is 4.

On behalf of the citizens of the Fifth Congressional District of Tennessee, I salute Commander Fuqua for his outstanding career

and for his service to our Nation. We are proud to claim him as a native son. I wish him well in his retirement and in all his future endeavors.

#### HONORING RITA FRIBERG

#### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to a successful businesswoman who has provided Colorado with years of dedicated service. Rita Friberg has had a long career as an entrepreneur and now serves the Pueblo community as a professor of business, management, and marketing at Pueblo Community College. Today, I would like to honor Rita's accomplishments and the impact she has had on her community throughout her career as an entrepreneur, small business adviser, and professor.

Rita began her business career working in retail at age 16, proceeding to manage a number of fabric and craft stores after attending Purdue University. She opened her own shop in Denver's Larimer Square before joining Pueblo Community College in 1994 to run the Small Business Development Center, eventually becoming a full-time faculty member in August 2002. In recognition of her efforts and career, the Pueblo Business Women's Network recently honored Rita as its Woman of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this body of Congress today to recognize the positive impact that Rita has had on my district and the State of Colorado. Rita embodies the combination of ambition and dedication necessary to communicate the dynamics of the business world to her students. I would like to congratulate her on this prestigious award and the respect that she has earned from her peers. I wish Rita all the best in her future endeavors.

#### REMEMBERING FORMER SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST LADY VIRGINIA RUSSELL

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during the Fourth of July District Work Period, I attended funerals of heroes of South Carolina who will always be remembered—former First Lady Virginia Russell on June 30, former U.S. Senate President Strom Thurmond on July 1, and Sergeant O.J. Smith on July 2, who served with distinction in Iraq in the War Against Terrorism.

Virginia Russell was special to me as the mother of my State Senate seatmate for 14 years, John Russell. Also in 1962, I met her campaigning for her husband running successfully for Governor while I was delivering the Charleston Evening Post on King Street in Charleston, SC, at Fralix Shoe Shop. She so inspired my political involvement that I contacted Campaign Manager J. Bratton Davis

and I served as youth Campaign Manager for Charleston in the June primary.

The following is an article and obituary from the Spartanburg Herald-Journal regarding her death.

[From the Spartanburg Herald-Journal, June 28, 2003]

#### DONALD RUSSELL'S WIDOW DIES

(By Janet S. Spencer)

Former South Carolina first lady Virginia Russell died Friday at her home on Otis Boulevard after an extended illness.

Mrs. Russell was the widow of the Honorable Donald S. Russell who was governor from 1963 to 1965 and then served as a federal judge.

In addition to numerous contributions to her community and the dedication to her family, she is remembered for her role as first lady of the state as well as of the University of South Carolina when her husband was president there.

While living in the governor's mansion, Mrs. Russell noticed state seals that had been painted over for many years on the mantle in a large drawing room.

She is credited with having the seals uncovered and brought out in gold relief. They remain that way today.

Mrs. Russell also was responsible for first encouraging tours of the mansion.

Her neighbors, Mary and Thomas Stokes, remember moving to their new residence in Spartanburg as the youngest couple on the street and Mrs. Russell opening her home to them.

"She was a genteel Southern lady. I always felt she was so thoughtful of others from the first time she welcomed us to her home and the neighborhood," Mrs. Stokes said. "She always went out of her way to be thoughtful of other people."

Stokes agreed with his wife. "Mrs. Russell was certainly a lady in the finest tradition of the word," he said.

"Mr. and Mrs. Russell were wonderful people."

John Edmunds, who had been friends with the Russells for 45 years, recalls being a student at USC when the Russells were there.

Mrs. Russell decorated his fraternity house and invited every student to dinner their freshman and senior years.

"She loved the university. She was a very brilliant, well-read woman. She could converse with you on any subject. She kept up with current events," Edmunds said.

After returning to Spartanburg, for many years Edmunds had dinner weekly with the Russells at the Piedmont Club.

"She was witty and charming. And although she had been in declining health for some time, I'm gonna miss her," Edmunds said.

For 11 years, Mrs. Russell had also won the hearts of caregivers who often called her "pretty lady."

Martina Smalley is a registered nurse and director of Professional Nursing Services that provided around-the-clock care for Mrs. Russell at the Russell residence.

Smalley said she and the three nurses who rotated the duties were deeply saddened by Mrs. Russell's death.

"She was such a warm and gracious lady. In the 11 years we were privileged to care for her, we came to love her as if she were our own mother," Smalley said.

Smalley described a mutual strong bond of trust and respect which she and the nurses shared with Mrs. Russell.

"She was very appreciative of everyone's kindness and thoughtfulness. She had a way of making everyone feel special," Smalley said.

The caregivers recall how Mrs. Russell eagerly let it be known how much her husband and family meant to her.